

**State of Washington
Department of Ecology
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance
Program**

**FFY 2001 Coastal Zone Management Grant Application
Sections 306, 306A, 309, and 6217**

For the period July 1, 2001 through December 31, 2002

April 31, 2001

**Washington Shorelands & Environmental Assistance Program
FFY 2001 Coastal Zone Management Grant Application
Sections 306/306A/309/6217**

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Chapter 1 -- Section 306/306A

Task 1.1 Coastal Zone Management

Description

The SEA Program receives an annual federal CZM grant which funds staff, pass-through grants to local governments, costs of implementing these grants, and special projects. Although all the Tasks in this grant application promote the protection and management of coastal resources, this Task calls out activities performed solely for implementation of the CZMA or for coordinating the work under the other Tasks.

Work Plan

Policy Analysis -- Staff will review and respond to proposed state and federal policy initiatives that impact Washington's coastal resources. This would include issues such as COBRA, CZMA or CWA reauthorization, and proposed state legislation addressing Washington's Coastal Zone Management Program, offshore drilling, and other coastal issues.

ESA Consultation -- SEA staff will coordinate with National Marine Fisheries Service and OCRM on ESA section 7 issues, especially as they relate to the state's CZM funding and the new SMP Guidelines.

Coastal Zone Management Grant -- Staff will prepare the federal CZM grant application, track its progress, request necessary changes, and prepare semi-annual reports.

Coastal Zone Management Grants to Locals -- Approximately \$425,000 of Washington's Coastal Zone Management grant funds will be passed through for local government project assistance. Projects include improvements to local Shoreline Master Programs (SMPs), integration with growth management planning, special shoreline planning and education projects, and 306A public access construction or acquisition project. Individual grant awards will range between five and fifty thousand dollars and will require a 50% match by the recipient

Routine Program Changes -- Ecology will continue to review and make necessary changes to our Coastal Zone Management Document. Ecology will submit Routine Program Change documentation to OCRM on a routine basis.

Coastal Planners Meetings -- Ecology staff, working with Sea Grant, will co-sponsor quarterly meetings with planners working in the coastal zone. The purpose of the meetings is to share information and provide focused technical assistance to local governments. The topics of the meetings vary, as do the locations in which the meetings are held.

Technical Assistance -- Coastal zone staff will provide technical assistance on shoreline erosion and coastal hazards, coastal zone and shorelands management to other Ecology staff, state agencies, local governments, and the public. Topics will include

bioengineering, floodplain management, coastal processes, shoreline permit administration, and enforcement.

Assessing Marine Habitat Under the New SMA – Ecology will develop a methodology to: 1) conduct a marine habitat suitability assessment for salmonids, and 2) characterize cumulative impacts based on historical change in an effort to meet the goals of the recently adopted Shoreline Master Program guidelines. Using geographic information system (GIS) technology, data set from multiple sources will be integrated in a common data format. A pilot project will be conducted for Water Resource Inventory AREA (WRIA) #22 and will serve as a template for future efforts by other jurisdictions bordered by marine waters.

Online Coastal Information and Education – This is a continuation of the Coastal Decision Tools project that was funded in Ecology's last CZM grant. This year's effort will modify and enhance last year's deliverables through the development of online information and education products for the public. Specifically this proposal focuses on the development of interactive web-based maps, data visualization tools, and the animation of physical coastal processes. Additionally, the proposed project will extend the accessibility and value of the extensive geographical information system (GIS) database developed by the Southwest Washington Coastal Erosion Study to all stakeholders, not just local governments.

Publication Management -- Ecology will publish, market, and distribute coastal zone education materials produced under previous grants. Materials include landowner guides, public access signs and publications, teacher resource materials (publications, posters, videos) and technical assistance guidebooks for local governments. Many of these documents have or will be digitized and available on the Internet.

WaterWeeks -- This is a continuing project (15th year). Held during the month of September. WaterWeeks is basically a marketing umbrella for local beach clean-ups, watershed explorations, waste collection drives, lectures, workshops, and other events which teach people how to help protect the water and shoreline environment. Ecology will contract with an outside firm to:

1. Manage the growing number of events around the state,
2. Produce and distribute a calendar of events and a poster,
3. Seek corporate sponsors to pay for published material,
4. Coordinate media involvement, and
5. Coordinate a policy board composed of representatives of state agencies

Information Newsletter -- Ecology will publish and distribute the *Confluence* newsletter to over 11,000 subscribers. The newsletter will target Coastal Zone Management "stakeholders" and keep them informed of the latest state and national CZM news.

Coastal Air Photo Monitoring -- The SEA Program will continue to acquire and present aerial photography for shoreline project review, enforcement, and education. This year, Ecology will continue the implementation of our program's Air Photo Strategy by photographing North Puget Sound shorelines. We will keep a hard copy set and will post the digital images on the Internet. The web site provides access to oblique photographs

of the entire Washington marine shoreline. The site also allows public access to the photo collection. We will also provide a CD with the digital images to each local government.

Air Photo Web Site Enhancement – Ecology will enhance the existing Shoreline Photo Web sites to allow the user to view photos from different time periods. The current site presents photos taken during the 1990s. The enhanced site will provide access to photos taken in the 1970's as well as the photos being taken in the 2000 series. The user will be able to select the "vintage" of photos they desire and then compare photos of the same stretch of shoreline to another time series to another time series the select.

Coastal Information -- The SEA Program will continue efforts to provide information for improved coastal decision-making. The SEA Program will also continue to enhance its web site to improve its value for disseminating coastal management information about Washington State. The site offers information and guidance on a variety of coastal management issues. The information will be useful for local governments, citizens, business, and others.

Watershed Planning – The 1998 legislature passed the Watershed Management Act (HB2514) to comprehensively address Washington's water resource, water quality, and habitat issues. The SEA Program is lead for implementing this Act and is actively involved in several of the 62 watersheds across the state. Approximately half of these fall within the coastal zone. Ecology will provide continued support for the Nisqually Watershed Management Program. Specifically, staff support will be provided to the Nisqually River Council, its' Citizen Advisory Committee and joint subcommittees.

Deliverables

- Semiannual updates on all coastal policy and planning activities
- Routine Program Changes to WCZMP will be done as needed
- Routine Program Changes to WCZMP, involving SMPs will be done semiannually
- Semiannual report on quarterly Coastal Planner Meetings
- Semiannual Report on Online Coastal Information and Education element
- Semiannual Report on Assessing Marine Habitat Under the New SMA
- Semiannual Report on WaterWeeks activities

Task 1.2 Shoreline Management

Description

The State Shoreline Management Act is the foundation of Washington's Coastal Zone Management Program. Washington's Shoreline Management Act (SMA) was passed by the Legislature in 1971 and adopted by the public in a 1972 referendum. The goal of the SMA is "to prevent the inherent harm in an uncoordinated and piecemeal development of the state's shorelines." The SMA establishes a cooperative program between local and state governments, in which local government develops and administers Shoreline Master Programs, and Ecology provides support and oversight to assure that state laws and regulations are adequately reflected.

Work Plan

Shoreline Permits – The State Shoreline Management Act is the foundation of Washington's Coastal Zone Management Program. City and county governments issue shoreline permits with review by Ecology. In some cases ("conditional use" and "variance" permits) Ecology approval is required. Ecology will review proposed coastal development and process shoreline permits for compliance with the SMA, state regulations, and the appropriate local Shoreline Master Program. Ecology will seek to enhance public access to the coastal zone through conditioning permits where appropriate. Ecology will deny or appeal to the Shorelines Hearings Board (SHB) inappropriate permit decisions of local governments. Permit review staff are located primarily in regional offices.

Compliance and Enforcement – A Program workgroup has been established and is meeting regularly to address compliance and enforcement strategy issues. The group will produce compliance and enforcement tools (including decision making documents) to assure that Washington's Coastal Zone Management Program is being implemented in such a way that the policies of the Coastal Zone Management Act are being met.

Enforcement and compliance assurance will continue to take place primarily in the regional offices, with coordination and training at headquarters. Enforcement actions will focus on developments that have occurred without permits, or which violate the conditions of a permit. Enforcement emphasis is placed where shoreline resources are damaged or threatened. Orders to restore the shoreline, civil penalties, notices of correction and letters of inquiry will be used as appropriate.

Ecology Northwest and Southwest regional office staff, in cooperation with federal, state and local officials, will investigate suspected illegal shoreline development and use activities; respond to citizen complaints and observations of government inspectors; monitor local actions and provide technical assistance to local government officials.

Staff will conduct field investigations to determine compliance with the SMA and local master programs. Field investigations include the review of aerial photography, permit files for adjacent or nearby developments, and other in-house data, as well as site visits. Results of investigations and disposition of incidents will be reported semiannually. Individual strategies may be used to bring a violator into compliance. Proper permits or

revisions and site rehabilitation or mitigation will be required as appropriate, and fines may be levied.

In cases where the local government is taking the lead enforcement action, the Department will act in a supportive capacity to local government officials. When a violation or other enforcement issue occurs within jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ecology will inform the Corps of both the violation and our enforcement action.

Shoreline Master Program Review -- Under the SMA, all counties and incorporated cities having shorelines must develop and administer a Shoreline Master Program (SMP). The SMP identifies development and conservation policies, establishes shoreline environment designations (urban, rural, conservancy, and natural), and specifies allowable uses and development standards for each environment. Ecology encourages and supports local governments to improve their SMPs. Changes to SMPs must be approved by Ecology.

Shorelands staff will work closely with local governments to ensure SMPs remain responsive to changing conditions. Ecology will review SMP changes for compliance with the SMA and its guidelines. Ecology will continue to provide technical assistance to local and state shoreline administrators on providing public access through implementation of SMPs.

Shorelands staff offers shoreline and coastal management technical assistance to local governments through daily phone contact and in person during site visits. Assistance includes providing written comments during the SEPA process, making jurisdictional calls when requested, helping to identify needed improvements in local master programs, and identifying potential grant funding opportunities.

With the adoption of the Revised Shoreline Master Program Guidelines in November 2000, Shorelands staff will devote time and attention to revising the Shoreline Guidebook (See the Section 309 Work Plan). In addition, Washington's Legislature is currently considering a budget bill, which would provide \$6 million for Ecology to distribute to local governments as well as funding for additional Shoreline staff. If such a bill is passed, more time will be spent processing grants to local governments, assisting with SMP reviews, and providing technical assistance.

Deliverables

- Documentation of permit review, participation in SHB cases, enforcement actions, and master program amendments will be reported semiannually
- Semiannual report on Compliance and Enforcement

Task 1.3 Wetlands Management

Description

The Shoreline Management Act (SMA) and the state's responsibilities under Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act (FCWA) are the primary drivers for Ecology's wetland management activities. The SMA applies to wetland areas associated with streams, lakes and marine waters that are designated as shorelines. Section 404 of the FCWA requires that projects that propose to discharge dredge or fill material in water areas and wetlands obtain a permit from the Corps of Engineers. Ecology is the state agency designated to implement Section 401 of the Clean Water Act by issuing water quality certifications for those projects seeking 404 permits. The area covered by 404 authority includes shoreline and non-shoreline wetlands.

Work Plan

Wetlands Technical Assistance -- Ecology staff will provide technical assistance to local governments, other agencies, and public groups on developing and implementing wetland protection measures. Technical assistance includes confirming wetland boundaries, reviewing wetland reports, evaluating mitigation proposals, and testifying at local hearings on wetland projects. Ecology will also provide information and technical assistance to local governments on developing and revising local wetland policies and regulations. Ecology will conduct training workshops for local and state agencies on a range of wetland topics as time allows and in response to demand.

Wetlands Function Assessment Project -- Ecology staff will continue to provide training and assistance in the implementation of the Washington Function Assessment Methods. Staff will maintain a list server to provide rapid response to questions from users of the methods and will provide training for method users and decision-makers as time allows and in response to demand.

Wetland Mitigation Banking -- Ecology staff is developing and will adopt new regulations for the certification of wetland mitigation banks in Washington. Staff will also develop guidance for mitigation bank applicants on how to select and design an environmentally sound mitigation bank. Staff will provide early technical review of bank proposals and technical assistance to local governments on mitigation banking issues.

Wetland Mitigation Evaluation Project -- Ecology is conducting a study of wetland compensatory mitigation to determine how well mitigation projects comply with permit conditions and how successful they are in producing functioning wetlands. Ecology will implement the recommendations from the first two phases of the mitigation Evaluation Study.

Wetlands Web Site -- Ecology will create the wetlands element of the Shorelands web site. It will be patterned after the Puget Sound Shorelines web site and will help round out the Shorelands/wetlands part of the SEA site. The site will include information,

photos, and maps that describe the wetlands of the coastal zone. It will also include a wide range of stewardship information for people who live near wetlands.

Spencer Island Project -- Ecology will continue the Spencer Island wetland restoration by maintaining vegetation monitoring needs for the summer of 2001 as well as the following tasks:

- 1) Acquisition of annual aerial photographs with Walker & Associates and creation of a GIS overlay of vegetation "strata" changes on site.
- 2) Conducting a field assessment of vegetation plant community composition within the larger strata zones- determining species composition and site evolution characteristics within emerging intertidal plant community areas previously dominated by reed canarygrass.
- 3) Assess introduction success and effects of the biocontrol *Galerucella* beetle on the invading noxious plant *Lythrum salicaria* (purple loosestrife)

Integral to watershed planning is the protection of Pacific Northwest salmon stocks through the application of stewardship practices that include preservation, restoration, and improved land management. Both the planning phase and on-the-ground actions must incorporate these measures for success.

Wetland Restoration -- Ecology will facilitate the restoration of degraded wetlands through implementation and refinement of a watershed-based wetland restoration initiative for Puget Sound. Staff will focus analysis efforts on completing wetland restoration analysis work in the 2000 square mile Snohomish and initiating analysis work in the 3000 square mile Skagit River Basin.

Coastal staff will also provide technical assistance to agencies, tribes, local jurisdictions, and organizations interested in non-regulatory wetland restoration within coastal counties. Staff will work strategically with Stillaguamish, Nooksack, and Snohomish Basin stakeholders to use Puget Sound Wetland Restoration Program watershed analysis products to maximize wetland restore efforts in those river basins. Within coastal basins not having watershed-scale analysis, staff will work opportunistically to restore wetlands until a more strategic approach can be implemented through landscape-scale analysis.

Deliverables

- Semiannual reports on technical assistance activities
- Report on all Wetlands Function Assessment Training
- Develop new regulations for the certification of wetlands mitigation banks
- Develop guidance for mitigation bank applicants
- Study of wetlands compensatory mitigation
- Semiannual Report on Spencer Island Project

Task 1.4 State Environmental Policy Act

Description

The State environmental Policy Act (SEPA) was adopted in 1971 to ensure that state and local agency decision-makers consider the environmental consequences of their actions. Ecology staff manages the preparation of environmental impact statements for major projects, when Ecology is the SEPA lead agency and SEPA coordinators assist with the environmental review of less significant proposals where a determination of nonsignificance is issued. SEPA staff provides training and guidance for state and local agencies, and the public; prepare rule amendments and interpretation guidance; and manage a statewide information clearinghouse. Ecology works closely with federal, state, and local agencies to implement SEPA, and with federal agencies in preparing documents under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Work Plan

Training and Guidance -- Ecology staff will provide technical assistance to local governments, other agencies, and the public on environmental review and SEPA implementation. Ecology will also conduct training workshops for local and state agencies on rule interpretation and amendments.

Deliverables

- Semiannual reports on all training workshops
- Semiannual reports on technical assistance
- Semiannual reports on SEPA documents received and processed

Task 1.5 Federal Permitting

Description

Ecology issues 401 Water Quality Certifications and Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Concurrence Determinations for water-related construction projects. Our goals are to minimize environmental impacts by ensuring these projects comply with state environmental requirements, and to provide a coordinated state response on federal permitting actions by working closely with several federal, state, and local agencies.

Work Plan

Clean Water Act Section 404 Review -- Ecology will use the authority of the federal Clean Water Act to protect wetlands, primarily through review of Section 404 permits and granting of Section 401 Water Quality Certifications.

Federal Consistency Certifications -- Section 307 of the CZMA directs federal agencies to assure that their activities are consistent with the State's approved CZM program. Ecology will review CZM consistency certifications made by federal agencies and applicants for federal permits and financial assistance.

Deliverables

- Semiannual charts detailing 401 and federal consistency activities

Task 1.6 Padilla Bay Reserve

Description

The Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, located in Skagit County, is one of a series of reserves established under the Coastal Zone Management Act. The reserves are established for estuarine protection, long-term research, education and interpretation. At Padilla Bay, this includes ownership of tidelands and uplands, plus research, educational and interpretive facilities at the Breazeale/Padilla Bay Interpretive Center. The Reserve offers an ongoing education program for K-12 students, teachers training workshops, and exhibits, field trips and workshops for adult and family audiences.

Work Plan

Estuarine Education and Information -- PBNERR staff will work directly with 8,000-12,000 students, teachers, administrators and local/regional government staff in implementation of several education programs, both on and off-site. This includes direct contact with students in estuarine, coastal and watershed protection; training workshops for educators; workshops for health, SMA, and water-quality regulators on coastal non-point issues (agriculture and septic systems), and sponsorship of additional training events related to priority CZM/SMA issues. Also, contributions will be made to regional and national publications on topics related to the above issues.

Non-chemical Spartina Control and Monitoring in Padilla Bay -- This is a continuing project for control and monitoring of Spartina in Padilla Bay. Non-chemical control/monitoring includes survey, hand-pulling seedlings, digging small clumps, mowing larger clones and monitoring areas previously controlled to ensure that re-infestation is not occurring.

Padilla Bay Research Assistantships -- Padilla Bay staff will administer research assistantships to graduate students conducting research on management-related issues that have applicability within the coastal zone.

Aerial Photos of Padilla Bay Eelgrasses -- Aerial photos will be taken of Padilla Bay eelgrasses during the summer of 2001. Eelgrass habitat is critical for herring, juvenile salmon, Dungeness crab and many other marine and estuarine species. The most important habitat that is protected in Padilla Bay NERR is eelgrass. Understanding of inter-annual variation in eelgrass habitat in the Pacific Northwest is very limited. Padilla Bay NERR has been acquiring aerial photos of eelgrass habitat each year which can be used to determine inter-annual variation whether from natural or human caused sources. This understanding inter-annual variation will be of importance throughout Washington State where eelgrass habitat and coastal zone use interact. This understanding will enable Padilla Bay NERR to provide expertise to regional and Headquarters SEA staff on eelgrass ecology.

Deliverables

- Semiannual reports on all Padilla Bay Education and Information Projects
- Semiannual reports on Aerial Photos of Padilla Bay Eelgrasses
- Semiannual reports on Non-chemical Spartina Control and Monitoring in Padilla Bay
- Semiannual reports on Padilla Bay Research Assistantships

Chapter 2 -- Section 309

Task 2.1 Implementation of Legislative Changes to the Shoreline Management Act

Description

In 1995, the Washington State legislature amended the Shoreline Management Act (SMA), triggering a need to update Washington's 28-year-old shoreline master program guidelines (Chapter 173-16 WAC).

The guidelines establish minimum requirements for local master programs based on science, addressing a wide variety of issues including but not limited to shoreline armoring, protecting and restoring shoreline vegetation, SMA/GMA and critical areas integration, preferred uses and the secondary and cumulative impacts of growth. On November 29, 2000 Ecology formally adopted the new guidelines as WAC 173-26 Parts III and IV. The adopted guidelines strive to meet goals that:

- Effectively and efficiently implement the policies of the SMA and CZMA.
- Are compatible with Endangered Species Act objectives (particularly Part IV).
- Further support development and implementation of the state 6217 program
- Are flexible and adaptable to the local settings and conditions.
- Represent good science, good law, and good policy while preserving the state's interest in shoreline management.
- Integrate and compliment other state and local programs addressing the same land areas including local comprehensive planning and other GMA requirements and flood plain management.
- Can be adopted and implemented by local government at the lowest possible cost.

Work Plan

Now that Ecology has formally adopted the guidelines, our efforts shift to /development of technical assistance materials. Including update of the *Shoreline Management Guidebook (incorporating watershed assessment and data collection, shoreline inventory and analysis methodologies for use by local governments in updating their shoreline master programs)*; delivery of training and outreach workshops and distribution of grants to local governments required to update their local SMPs; and consultation with federal services (NMFS/USFWS/OCRM) as required by the ESA. Including preparation of an biological assessment, opinion and NEPA environmental impact statement, culminating with issuance of an incidental take statement offering ESA liability protection for Part IV compliance shoreline development and uses. At the same time, we will be fully engaged with the state legislature in seeking adequate timeframes and funding for local shoreline program updates in the coastal zone.

Washington's Legislature is currently considering a budget bill, which would provide \$6 million for Ecology to distribute to local governments as well as funding for additional

Shoreline staff. If such a bill is passed, more time will be spent processing grants to local governments, assisting with SMP reviews, and providing technical assistance.

Deliverables

- Semiannual reports
- Updated Shoreline Management Guidebook together with supporting technical assistance materials
- Outreach materials for all interested parties
- Local government training workshops
- Web-site and e-mail based status reporting and communications
- Incidental Take Statement from federal services for guidelines Part IV, resulting from ESA Section 7 Consultation

Chapter 3 -- Section 6217

Task 3.1 Managing Nonpoint Pollution in the Coastal Zone

Description

Ecology's Water Quality program is the designated lead in developing Washington's Water Quality Management Plan. (WQMP) The plan describes the State's nonpoint source program, which includes all nonpoint efforts by federal, state, tribal, and local governments as well as volunteer programs carried out by the general public.

The WQMP has two purposes. The first is to meet federal mandates. Washington was required to update its Nonpoint Source Management Plan so it can continue to receive grant funds under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act and Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990. Guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was used to evaluate current nonpoint source efforts and determine where program upgrades were needed.

The second purpose of the document was to assess the particular needs of the state regarding nonpoint source pollution. The federal requirements discussed above apply to all states and therefore are general in nature. Several issues related to nonpoint source pollution control are unique to the Northwest states, especially salmon habitat and shellfish production. The (WQMP) plan looks specifically at the additional needs of protecting unique Northwest resources.

Work Plan

Dairy Inspections and Monitoring – Agriculture Management Measure # IIB1 -Facility Wastewater and Runoff from Confined Animal Facility Management (Large Units) and MM #IIB2 -Management Measure for Facility Wastewater and Runoff from Confined Animal Facility Management (Small Units). (See page 91, WA Water Quality Management Plan to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution, April 2000)

Ecology will inspect all dairies in Whatcom County per the state's Dairy Nutrient Management Act. Approximately 220 dairies are located in the county representing 32 % of dairies statewide. Dairies in the county have been identified as one of the primary sources of bacterial contamination to near shore areas of north Puget Sound resulting in several downgrades in shellfish growing areas.

This will be the third round of dairy inspections in the area. All dairy milking and replacement stock operations will be checked for compliance with Washington State's Water Pollution Control Act (90.48 RCW). Inspectors will continue to work closely with the Northwest Indian College's fecal coliform monitoring program to identify the areas of high fecal coliform contamination. Dairy inspection efforts will be targeted in these areas. This approach has been successful in halting discharges from dairy operations, as well as identifying and repairing failing residential septic systems. Enforcement of Washington State's Water Pollution Control Act (90.48 RCW) and National Pollution Discharge

Elimination System (NPDES) permitting have been and continue to be based on this inspection process. Measurable reductions in fecal coliform loads have resulted from this effort.

Forestry – Forestry Practices/Forestry Management Measures # IIA-Pre-harvest Planning, MM# IIB-Streamside Management Areas (SMAs), MM# IIC-Road Construction, MM# IID-Road Management, and MM# IIE-Timber Harvesting. (See page 126-138 WA Water Quality Management Plan to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution, April, 2000)

This project has two parts. First, Ecology will continue efforts to address water quality and salmon issues in the Upper White River drainage. This is part of an ongoing effort to simultaneously meet Clean Water Act and Endanger Species Act requirements in a forested system. The salmon of the White River system are considered one of the most threatened runs in western Washington. Partners in the effort are Weyerhaeuser, State Department of Natural Resources and the US Forest Service. This effort is resulting in a drainage specific management plan that addresses roads, riparian protection and restoration needs.

Second, Ecology will participate in the Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation and Research committee of the Forest and Fish program. The effectiveness of the new riparian and road management requirements will be evaluated. Additional research programs affecting fish and water quality will be developed. As part of these studies over the next few years, the need for additional management measures will be determined.

Forested Wetlands – Forest Practices/Forestry Management Measure #IJJ-Forested Wetland. (See page 147, WA Water Quality Management Plan to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution, April, 2000)

SEA Program wetland staff provides technical assistance to the Water Quality staff to adequately protect the aquatic function of forested wetlands. Wetland staff will provide assistance on the more protective requirements associated with forested wetlands affected by commercial forestry activities. It is Ecology's responsibility to protect these unique and rare ecological systems not only through our wetlands regulations, but also through the Forest Practices Act (Chapter 76.09.040 RCW). Ecology's goals include enhancing public awareness and understanding of the benefits to preserving and restoring forested wetlands

Nisqually and Deschutes Watershed Protection – Urban Area Management Measure # IIB-Watershed Protection. (See page 161, WA Water Quality Management Plan to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution, April, 2000)

Staff will devote full time as the agency lead in coordinating water resource, water quality, stream flow and habitat management activities relative to implementation of the state Watershed Planning Act. Responsibilities include representing the Department of Ecology and other state agencies in a 4-year, statewide planning effort involving

attendance at monthly watershed planning meetings and coordination of technical assistance support across programs and agencies. Specific activities include:

- Represent the Department of Ecology on the Nisqually River Council and Nisqually Planning Unit formed under the Watershed Planning Act.
- Represent the Department of Ecology and other state agencies on the Deschutes Planning Unit.
- Coordinate cross-program and interagency activities in these two watersheds.
- Assist in developing a local/state data-information management partnership.
- Provide technical and policy guidance and assistance.

These objectives will be accomplished through the Growth Management Act, Watershed Planning Act, State Environmental Policy Act, and the Salmon Restoration Act. These regulations are designed to protect critical or environmentally sensitive areas such as: wetlands; areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water; fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas; frequently flooded areas; and geologically hazardous areas

River Basin Characterization – Urban Area Management Measure # IIB-Watershed Protection. (See page 161, WA Water Quality Management Plan to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution, April, 2000)

Ecology will facilitate continued development and implementation of emerging river basin characterization tools within coastal counties. Specific opportunities existing at the beginning of the project period include: a) development of technical guidance for watershed assessment required to assist local jurisdictions in complying with the newly adopted Shoreline Management rule followed by technical support for local jurisdictions during implementation; b) continued technical support to the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office on development and implementation of statewide watershed assessment guidelines for salmon recovery and project funding; c) develop guidance and provide technical support for watershed-based "Smart Growth" pilot projects being initiated in Puget Sound by EPA and the Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team, and d) continue efforts to integrate river basin characterization tools into the Puget Sound Wetland Restoration Program. Central to each project are the landscape assessment of ecological processes (i.e., delivery and routing of water, sediment, nutrients/toxicants/bacteria, large wood, and heat). Assessing, and then implementing, plans that address the degradation of these ecological processes has direct benefits to maintaining and restoring water quality in coastal counties. In these coastal counties, key water quality issues include increases in water temperature, nutrients/toxicants/bacteria, and fine sediment. These direct assessments at a landscape scale, along with an assessment of key processes that effect water quality (i.e., delivery and routing of water and large wood) make these assessment efforts instrumental in comprehensive water quality management. While it is likely that these four major efforts will continue through the 18-month project period, it is also anticipated that future opportunities will arise that warrant our active involvement.

Coastal Nonpoint Septic Education – Urban Management Measure # VA-New Onsite Sewage Systems and Management Measure # VB-Operating Onsite Sewage Systems. (See page 175-178. WA Water Quality Management Plan to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution, April, 2000)

This continuing project provides technical assistance (train-the trainer workshops) to local communities for improving water quality and promoting healthy watersheds. This year we're offering three workshops with training concentrating at the SW Ocean coast and northern Puget Sound. The training would teach participants about the use of the Septic Education Kit, about current local and regional issues involving septic tank operation and maintenance, and effective presentation and marketing skills. This training would offer tools to local agencies in the form of ready-to-use educational materials, as well as methods of setting up and marketing a septic education program. The ultimate goal of this project is reduce coastal non-point source pollution. *(Note: Ecology will be submitting the septic site management measures in June and anticipate approval before implementing this project)*

Deliverables

- Semiannual reports on Coastal Nonpoint Septic Education
- Semiannual reports on River Basin Characterization project
- Semiannual reports Dairy Monitoring project
- Semiannual reports on Nisqually and Deschutes Watersheds
- Semiannual reports on the water quality issues in the White River drainage area
- Semiannual reports on the Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation and Research committee